

FORCING OF STRAITS IS DOUBTED

Balkan States Believe Allies Face Impossible Task in Dardanelles; Strength of Turks Underestimated from Start

MAY TAKE CAPITAL FROM LAND SIDE

But Only After Long Campaign of Fierce Fighting; Russia Has Big Army Ready But Needs Naval Aid

By HENRY WOOD.
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)
Sofia, Bulgaria, July 30.—(By mail.)—Governmental, diplomatic and military circles generally throughout the Balkans have become pessimistic to an extreme degree regarding the success of the allies' campaign against the Dardanelles. The almost unanimous verdict is that the action was both ill-advised and ill-planned.

In the first place, it is declared the allies unquestionably underestimated the strength of the Turks. They are declared evidently to have taken into consideration only the weakness shown during the two Balkan wars and to have overlooked entirely the regeneration and re-organization which has taken place in Turkey since the Young Turks secured full control of the government.

In the second place the lack of quick, vigorous, effective action in the execution of the plan of attack is roundly criticized. It is on the day the allies bombarded the Dardanelles fortifications for the first time, the fleet had been sent through the straits regardless of cost, it is the general impression here the Dardanelles would have been forced.

Now the forcing of the straits by the fleet is regarded as an absolute impossibility, the Turks having had ample time to prepare defenses of the most modern and adequate kind.

Similar criticism is also leveled against the land action on the peninsula of Gallipoli. Not only did the allies underestimate greatly the strength of the Turks, but they allowed ample time for the latter to make up all of the weaknesses and defects in their defense that would have been open to a land attack made simultaneously with the first bombardment of the straits last February instead of two months later.

While it is not estimated here that the final capture of Constantinople by the land side of Gallipoli is utterly impossible, it is nevertheless the general opinion that now that the attack has been reduced to a basis of trench warfare and can only be accomplished after a long campaign in which every foot of ground will be fiercely contested.

No secret is made in the Balkans of the fact that the original plan of action by the allies called for the landing of a Russian army on the Black sea coast north of Constantinople and the capture of that city from the Chatalja line in the rear. But here again the lack of quick, energetic action on the part of the allies defeated this plan.

With the arrival of German submarines off Constantinople the Turkish fleet is now almost equal to the naval strength which Russia has at her disposal in the Black sea.

It is known that for several months Russia has been holding an army variously estimated from 200,000 to 400,000 at Odessa for this descent on the Black sea coast north of Constantinople. By losing, however, the little naval supremacy she at first had in the Black sea this has now been rendered utterly impossible. While by a sudden move it might be possible still to effect the landing of the troops, the general opinion here is that the Russian fleet never could keep open the line of communications, especially against the submarines, necessary to insure the continuance of the operations. Only a preponderant naval supremacy such as the allies have in the Mediterranean could do that.

In general, England, and especially Churchill, are blamed here both for the underestimation of the Turkish strength and for the lack of effective action.

The Balkans, however, are unanimous in the belief that the whole campaign could be turned from a somewhat doubtful one into one of certainty by the intervention of Bulgaria on behalf of the allies. The whole of the Turkish strength is today concentrated in the resistance at the Dardanelles and at Gallipoli. Part of the cannon that are now known to fairly bristle along the entire peninsula of Gallipoli are to be found a goodly portion of the artillery that formerly figured in the defenses of Adrianople and the Chatalja line. The entire province of Thrace from the Bulgarian frontier to the gates of Constantinople is declared to have been left almost denuded of defense in order to withstand the attack at the straits. That Turkey could not resist still another attack on her rear is everywhere conceded here.

Unfortunately for the allies, however, German diplomacy has so far been successful in keeping Bulgaria from making a decision in their favor. Whether she will be able to do this till the end of the war remains to be seen.

SUSPECTED OF SWIPING WAR PLANS

By United Press.
Washington, Aug. 26.—It is reported that secret service men of the department of justice are worried because they were unable to ascertain whether all the data concerning American military preparations was seized when Gustav Kopsch, a young German employee of the Carnegie institute, was arrested last night.

Kopsch is charged with obtaining unauthorized information concerning the national defenses and it is feared that all the material gathered by him was not recovered when he was arrested.

Kopsch had photographs of Cape Charles, Cape Henry, Hampton Roads, New York harbor and the West Point defenses. He was about to leave Washington when he was arrested.

DRANE HELD UNDER BOND

Tom Drane, the Bradley farmer who is alleged to have shot Bert Gillis, a neighbor farmer, when the two met in the section line near Bradley two weeks ago, was bound over to the action of the district court yesterday afternoon after a preliminary hearing before Justice A. C. Fuller. He made bond in the sum of \$1000.

According to evidence brought out in the preliminary, the farmers met about 9 o'clock at night and had words over insinuations Drane was claimed to have made that Gillis had stolen some turkeys. After an exchange of epithets, Gillis, according to the evidence, got out of the wagon he was riding in and Drane got off his horse. Drane shot Gillis three times when Gillis came around in front of the horses toward where Drane was standing. None of the wounds were of a serious nature, though one of them passed through the left shoulder close to a vital spot.

The men are declared to have had trouble before that which culminated in the shooting.

TAKES BENNETT TO JAIL.

Jim Dillon, deputy U. S. marshal, will leave this afternoon for Muskogee with John Bennett of the south part of the county unless Bennett puts up his \$500 bond before 5 o'clock. The man was bound over to the action of the federal grand jury by Commissioner Eugene Hamilton this week on a liquor charge.

WEATHER FORECAST.

For Oklahoma.

Tonight and Friday, cloudy; showers and thunderstorms in east portion.

Local Temperature

During the twenty-four hours ending at 8 a. m.

Maximum 88

Minimum 62

GERMAN POSITION IS STATED

Facts on Arabic Case Presented to State Department; Way for Settlement Believed Open; Officials Mum

PLEDGE TO LIMIT SUB. ACTIVITIES

Reliably Reported Assurance Given Lansing that No More Americans Will Be Harmed in War Zone

By United Press.
Washington, Aug. 26.—If information obtained from sources believed to be trustworthy is correct, the danger of a break between the United States and Germany over the sinking of the Arabic and other merchant vessels, with the loss of American lives, is averted.

While no official announcement has been made, it is reliably reported that assurance that Germany will limit her submarine activities and will practically pledge that no more Americans will be harmed in the war zone under any circumstances were given to Secretary Lansing today by Ambassador Bernstorff. The secretary and the ambassador held a conference today but what transpired was not revealed. It is known that the state department received a long code message from Ambassador Gerard at Berlin and it is believed that the German version of the Arabic case was contained in it.

By United Press.
Berlin, Aug. 26.—Germany's position in the Arabic case, based on the facts thus far available, has been laid before the state department in Washington and it is believed that the way is open to a peaceful settlement of the issue.

Ambassador Gerard cabled a long code message to Washington last night, following two conferences with German officials. Both German officials and the ambassador refused to discuss the nature of the conferences and the message that was sent to Washington.

The imperial German chancellor is quoted in an interview as saying that only after all the circumstances surrounding the sinking of the Arabic are cleared up will it be "possible to say whether the commander of one of our submarines went beyond his instructions, in which case the imperial government would not hesitate to give such complete satisfaction to the United States as would conform to the friendly relations existing between both governments."

HAITI SURE TO CONSENT

By United Press.
Washington, Aug. 26.—That President Dartiguenave of Haiti will accede to the request of the United States government for a ten year virtual protectorate is considered certain in official circles. Haitian officials admit that but for the United States, rebels would soon again overthrow the government.

The senate must approve of the protectorate before it can be effected, however, and there is thought to be some opposition taking form in the United States. Naval officers say the treaty would probably give this country control of Mole St. Nicholas, an important naval base.

WELCH MINERS RETURN TO WORK

By United Press.
Cardiff, Wales, Aug. 26.—The thousand coal miners who went out on strike at the Hafod pit yesterday returned to their work this morning.

The operators say the danger of another general strike has passed.

SCENE AT FRENCH MILITARY HOSPITAL



Wounded French soldiers hobbling to their luncheon at the military hospital at Ambrieu.

MONSTER TOMATO WANTED

Take it to Farm Bureau Office; Cooper Also Calls for Other Fine Products for Grady County Exhibit

"Wanted: The biggest tomato in Grady county to be delivered at the office of the Grady County Commercial and Farm bureau in Chickasha." O. C. Cooper is responsible for the "want." He says he must have it in order to make the exhibit anything like complete. There are lots of good ones now, he says, and the gardeners should be thinking of the county fair when they find the biggest one of the season. He doesn't want it canned or pickled or fixed up in any other way. He wants the tomato delivered fresh at the office so that he can preserve it in a special fluid that will keep it fresh for months.

There are a few other things that Mr. Cooper wants right now. He declares the county must have some good bundles of wheat, millet, barley, oats, etc. Extra good ones should be taken from a stack preferably and either brought right in to the office where they will be cared for and entered for prizes this fall, or preserved by the owner.

Some other things that should be watched for now, the county agent says, are maize and kafir heads, fetterits, Sudan grass, alfalfa, broom corn, cow peas, etc. A part of the state exhibit must be a bale of alfalfa hay. Also a sample of each cutting from the field for the year, a sample of five native and tame grasses, two five-pound bundles of broom corn straw and a sample of the seed. Prizes will be given for them in the county fair also.

No cherries or berries were collected early in the year, so the man behind the county fair wants to get some canned cherries, blackberries, raspberries, strawberries, gooseberries, etc. They should be brought to the office where the juice will be poured from them and replaced by the preserving fluid. Some good honey is another thing required to make the exhibit complete.

It costs nothing to exhibit stuff, Mr. Cooper insists that all understand. "Bring your products to us," he said. "We will put them in exhibition jars, furnish everything, enter them in your name and you will get the premium if they get one."

CHINESE SQUASH WILL BE SHOWN.

Lo Kee had some squash seed sent to him from China. They were of a kind Lo Kee particularly relished back in the Orient, and he believed they would grow in Oklahoma. He gave some of the seed to W. H. Devlin. Mr. Devlin brought two specimens of the product to the farm bureau office yesterday, and now the queer shaped little squash will compete for a prize with other varieties regularly raised on the western hemisphere. They are being saved as exhibits for the county fair.

"WAR BABIES" PRISONERS



These two youthful-looking soldiers of the British army are prisoners of war in the German detention camp at Doberitz, and because of their youth they have been nicknamed by the other prisoners at the camp the "War Babies."

TROOPS AID IN RELIEF

By United Press.
Newport, Ark., Aug. 26.—State troops arrived here this morning on the first section train and took charge of rescue work and the distribution of supplies to fifteen hundred flood sufferers.

Hundreds of residents are still marooned in upper stories of houses. The militia is transferring them to places of safety. The land of the entire country for a radius of fifteen miles is under from one to fifteen feet of water. Practically all crops and livestock in the submerged district were destroyed.

CONFESSES HE'S GUILTY

By United Press.
Indianapolis, Aug. 26.—James Gibson, charged with "Boss" Thomas Taggart and a hundred others with conspiring to corrupt Marion county elections, sprang a surprise this morning by pleading guilty to the charge. Excitement was so intense among the other defendants following Gibson's unexpected action that he asked to be placed immediately in jail for protection from friends of other defendants in the case. It is expected that Gibson will be an important witness for the prosecution when the cases of Taggart and others come to trial.

ON WITH THE BATHS.

By United Press.
Dallas, Aug. 26.—Scantly clad couples in east Dallas may continue to take garden hose baths in back yards if they choose. Ministers complained to officers that this method of enjoying the moonlight was becoming too common, but the officers said it was none of a policeman's business.

DISCOVER PLOT FOR UPRISING

Reported Mexicans Plan to Free Huerta; Arrests Expected; Shots Exchanged Across River at Santa Maria

By United Press.
El Paso, Tex., Aug. 26.—Several arrests are expected to follow the discovery of a plot for an uprising of adherents of Huerta, Orozco and Carranza, with a rush to this side of the line and a "jail delivery" of Huerta.

Five thousand United States regulars were placed under rigid orders when the plot was discovered last night. They were ordered to guard the international bridge and stop all traffic of Mexicans from Juarez. Several fights between Mexicans and soldiers occurred on the main bridge. Huerta's quarters at Fort Bliss are strongly guarded and vigilantes and the police are prepared for any emergency.

Fighting on Border.

By United Press.
Brownsville, Aug. 26.—A continual exchange of bullets across the river between Mexicans and American soldiers lasted for two hours at Santa Maria last night. Two cavalry horses were wounded. The Mexican casualties are unknown.

Practically all the Carranzista forces that were formerly stationed at Matamoros are now entrenching at Matamoros.

Troops are stationed all along the river to prevent Mexicans from crossing. Three bands of the sentries at Rio Grand City last night and are now being pursued by soldiers.

News came in this morning of a boy of 15 repelling an attack by four Mexicans on the Gonzales ranch Roma.

Board of Education Scheduled to Meet

By United Press.
Oklahoma City, Aug. 26.—The state board of education was scheduled to meet here today to take action in the election of presidents for the normal schools at Weatherford and Durant. There is a probability that the vacancies will be allowed to stand through the year, the executive work being done by members of the faculty as acting president.

Several new text books will be adopted to meet new courses of study.

BOYS BEGIN SENTENCE.

John Truner and Claud McTarry began last night the serving of 30-day sentences for stealing an overcoat at Rush Springs. They were sentenced at Rush Springs yesterday after a hearing before a youth county justice of the peace.

ANOTHER "TALLEST STALK."

That taller stalk of corn came in to the Commercial and Farm bureau this morning. It is 12 feet 6 inches tall, still green and has a roasting ear up some eight feet from the bottom. It is of a variety of June corn, planted June 12 by J. W. Welborn of 401 North Seventh street.

GREATEST FORTRESS CAPTURED

Austro-German Forces Enter Brest Litovsk, Slav Stronghold, After Storming and Russian Defenders Surrender

FRENCH AIRMEN MAKE BIG RAID

Fly 150 Miles from Base; Drop Bombs on German Munition Factories and Shell Railway Station

By United Press.
Berlin, Aug. 26.—It was announced today that the Germans and Austro-Hungarian forces have taken the Brest Litovsk fortress, Russia's greatest stronghold.

The attacking forces entered the center of the fortress last night after they had stormed the western and northwestern fronts. The Russian defenders surrendered.

Brest Litovsk is about one hundred miles east of Warsaw and is an important railroad center. The number of prisoners taken has not been reported but it is believed to have been large.

The capture of Brest Litovsk forces the Russians further east, where it is expected that they will attempt to make another stand.

French Stage Big Aid Raid.

By United Press.
Paris, Aug. 26.—Sixty-two French aviators bombed the German munition factories at Hiltengen, Bavaria, in the greatest air raid of the war, according to the official statement issued today.

The airmen flew one hundred and fifty miles from their base in the Vosges region and dropped fifty bombs on the enemy's works.

French aviators, the statement says, also bombed the railway station at Offenburger, Baden, but how effectively is not known.

No infantry attacks on the Franco-Flanders line were reported today.

Serbia Takes Action.

By United Press.
London, Aug. 26.—It is persistently reported in diplomatic circles that Serbia has taken an important step to obtain the aid of other Balkan states for the allies.

A note was handed to Italy by Serbia but it will not be made public till it is sent to London.

Massed Troops Stop Traffic.

By United Press.
Rome, Aug. 26.—The massing of large bodies of Austro-German troops near Innsbruck has interrupted traffic on the Austria-Switzerland railway.

King Tours French Lines.

By United Press.
Paris, Aug. 26.—King Albert of Belgium has completed a two days' tour of the French lines from Arras to the Vosges, accompanying President Poincaré and Gen. Jooffre.

EVENTS IN THE WAR ONE YEAR AGO TODAY.

Hard fighting at Lille. Denied city is fallen. Decided to make Paris perfectly entrenched camp.
French offensive movement between Vosges and Nancy continues fifth day. Losses of Germans reported very heavy.
German attacks on Meuse repulsed with great vigor by the French but attack by British on superior force fails.
Russian forces in field reported to be 3,000,000 and attack on Berlin believed possible.
German steamship Wilhelm der Grosse sunk by British cruiser High Flyer.
Austria announces victory over Russians near Krasnik after three days' battle. Five Russian corps spread over fifty miles being defeated and compelled to flee toward Lublin.